

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 2-6, 10, 12-14 and 16, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND the claims and ADD new claims as indicated below:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer implemented method ~~for facilitating the procurement of goods and services~~, comprising:
automatically providing requesting any one of a plurality of a virtual procurement folder including a plurality of data fields corresponding, respectively, to a plurality of states in a sequential flow for procuring goods and/or services procurement entities;
automatically completing procurement items associated with a respective state of the plurality of states the requested procurement entity; and
automatically recording the completed procurement items in the virtual procurement folder in accordance with the data field corresponding to the respective state;
automatically changing to a different state from said respective state in accordance with user-defined rules for changing states, said different state not being a next sequential state from said respective state in the sequential flow;
automatically completing procurement items associated with said different state; and
automatically recording the completed procurement items associated with said different state in the virtual procurement folder in accordance with the data field corresponding to said different state, the method thereby allowing procurement items to be automatically completed and automatically recorded in the virtual procurement folder for states in an order which does not follow the sequential flow.

2. (CANCELED)
3. (CANCELED)
4. (CANCELED)
5. (CANCELED)
6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer implemented method ~~for facilitating the procurement of goods and services according to claim 1~~, wherein the virtual procurement folder procurement entity has an associated unique procurement identifier.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer implemented method ~~for~~

~~facilitating the procurement of goods and services according to claim 7, wherein the procurement entity~~virtual procurement folder may be requested by the procurement identifier.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer implemented method ~~for facilitating the procurement of goods and services according to claim 1, further comprising:~~
defining or redefining ~~stages~~states~~of a procurement process to change~~
the sequential flow.

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer implemented method for facilitating ~~the procurement of goods and~~and/or services, the procurement including a plurality of states representing a sequential flow for procuring the goods and/or services, the method comprising:

automatically providing a virtual procurement folder including a plurality of data fields corresponding, respectively, to the plurality of states;

automatically requesting procurement items associated with any respective stage-state of the plurality of states without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential order of a procurement process;

automatically completing the requested procurement items~~associated with said procurement process;~~ and

automatically recording the completed procurement items in the virtual procurement folder in accordance with the data field corresponding to the respective state;

automatically changing to a different state from said respective state, said different state not being a next sequential state from said respective state in the sequential flow;

automatically requesting procurement items associated with said different state;

automatically completing the requested procurement items associated with said different state; and

automatically recording the completed procurement items associated with said different state in the virtual procurement folder in accordance with the data field corresponding to said different state.

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer implemented method for facilitating the procurement of goods and services according to claim 11 further comprising:
automatically defining or redefining stages-states of the plurality of states to thereby change the sequential flowprocurement-process.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (NEW) A method comprising:

automatically providing a virtual procurement folder having a plurality of data fields corresponding, respectively, to a plurality of states in a sequential flow for procuring goods and/or services;

automatically completing procurement items associated with a respective state, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow; and

automatically storing the completed procurement items in the virtual procurement program in accordance with the data field corresponding to the respective state, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow.

18. (NEW) A method as in claim 17, further comprising:

automatically changing to a different state from said respective state after the completed procurement items associated with the respective state are stored in the virtual procurement folder, said different state not being a next sequential state from said respective state in the sequential flow;

automatically completing the procurement items associated with said different state; and

automatically recording the completed procurement items associated with said different state in the virtual procurement folder in accordance with the data field corresponding to said different state.

19. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

an automated procurement system comprising

means for automatically providing a virtual procurement folder having a plurality of data fields corresponding, respectively, to a plurality of states in a sequential flow for procuring goods and/or services,

means for automatically completing procurement items associated with a respective state, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow, and

means for automatically storing the completed procurement items in the virtual procurement program in accordance with the data field corresponding to the respective state, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow.

20. (NEW) A method comprising:

automatically providing a virtual procurement folder having a plurality of data fields corresponding, respectively, to a plurality of states in a sequential flow for procuring goods and/or services;

automatically selecting a respective state of the plurality of states, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow;

automatically completing procurement items associated with a respective state, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow; and

automatically storing the completed procurement items in the virtual procurement program in accordance with the data field corresponding to the respective state, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow.

21. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

means for automatically providing a virtual procurement folder having a plurality of data fields corresponding, respectively, to a plurality of states in a sequential flow for procuring goods and/or services;

means for automatically selecting a respective state of the plurality of states, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow;

means for automatically completing procurement items associated with a respective state, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow; and

means for automatically storing the completed procurement items in the virtual procurement program in accordance with the data field corresponding to the respective state, without regard to order of the respective state in the sequential flow.